

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 289760

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING IS REPEAT GENEVA 9418, SENT SECSTATE 26 NOV:

QUOTE S E C R E T GENEVA 9418

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FOR SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS LONDON

E.9. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: ALGERIAN VIEWS

1. I LUNCHEDED WITH RAOUF BOUDJAKDJI, THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA, ON NOVEMBER 25. BOUDJAKDJI TOLD ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE RHODESIAN CONFERENCE AND IS INTERESTED IN A "MODERATE" OUTCOME. ALGERIA WANTS A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR AND AN INCREASED SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 289760

2. BOUDJAKDJI ADDED THAT ALGIERS WAS CONCERNED BY

THE PROTRACTED DELAY OVER THE INDEPENDENCE DATE QUESTION AND HAD LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THOSE TRYING TO STALL THE CONFERENCE ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE THE ALGERIANS WANT A MODERATE SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL INCLUDE WHITE PARTICIPATION, THE ALGERIANS BELIEVE THAT OVER TIME WHITE RHODESIANS WILL BEHAVE LIKE "PIEDS NOIR" AND WILL LEAVE THE COUNTRY. EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE SURE THE WHITES DO NOT ORGANIZE THEMSELVES ALONG "OAS LINES" AND DESTROY THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

3. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT THE BRITISH MIGHT BE CONSIDERING A RECESS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A NEW ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, BOUDJAKDJI SUGGESTED THAT NEW CONSULTATIONS COVER A WIDER CIRCLE OF AFRICAN STATES THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE AND BRIEFED ON THE PROSPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT. BOUDJAKDJI HINTED THAT THE ALGERIANS, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS, LIKE THE EGYPTIANS, MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE IN MOVING THE SETTLEMENT ALONG BY INFORMALLY BRINGING THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON THE NATIONALIST PARTIES AND THE FRONT LINE STATES.

4. BOUDJAKDJI SAID, IN HIS OPINION, APPROACHES TO A WIDER CIRCLE OF AFRICAN STATES, INCLUDING ALGERIA, SHOULD BE DONE BY THE BRITISH. MANY AFRICANS -- BOUDJAKDJI IMPLIED HIS GOVERNMENT WAS INCLUDED -- UNDERSTOOD BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RHODESIA BUT WERE SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICAN MOTIVES. IN SUMMING UP, BOUDJAKDJI SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH START NOW AND BRIEF A WIDER GROUP OF AFRICANS. IF RENEWED CONSULTATIONS ARE PLANNED, HE SUGGESTED THAT ALGIERS BE ON A BRITISH LIST OF POSSIBLE VISITS.

5. CONCERNING BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, BOUDJAKDJI SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAD A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REVERSE THE COURSE OF THEIR RELATIONS IN AFRICA BY BRINGING TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION THE CONFERENCE AND TRANSFER OF POWER TO BLACK MAJORITY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 289760

RULE. "PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ENTER A GAME UNLESS THEY ARE PREPARED TO WIN," THE AMBASSADOR SAID. "AFRICANS WILL JUDGE THE BRITISH ON THE RESULTS AND NOT ON THEIR MOTIVES OR THE POSTURES THEY TAKE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCESSES."

6. I INTEND TO PASS BOUDJAKDJI'S THOUGHTS TO IVOR RICHARD. IN DISCUSSING RHODESIA WITH ME, THE ALGERIAN

DID NOT SAY HE WAS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. IN
FACT, I SUSPECT ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT IS BEING HELD
IN ALGIERS. CATTO UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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